

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/909,353

Examiner

M. Rachuba

Applicant(s)

CARBONE, MARTIN R.

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed March 24, 2004 and the examiner's amendment filed herewith.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 12-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

M. Rachuba
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S COMMENT

1. The drawings are objected to because of their informality, i.e. uneven lines, blurred lines, and smeared erasures. Note especially figure 3. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Daniel Kimbell on March 24, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising: a base portion having an elongated guide rail, a top surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of a knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail and a handle support for engaging a handle of the knife; and a sharpening implement which contacts and is guided on the guide rail for movement relative to the blade and which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.

6. (Currently amended) A sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives comprising: a base portion having two elongate guide rails, each with a top surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of the knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail, and wherein the knife support means will support the knife in two, flipped over orientations; and a sharpening implement which contacts and is guided on the guide rail for movement relative to the blade and which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.

7. (Currently Amended) A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising a base portion having an elongated guide rail with a top surface at a first level, wherein the guide rail is curved to match a curved knife which the knife sharpening system is used to sharpen, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of the knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail; and a sharpening implement which contacts and is guided on the guide rail for movement relative to the blade and which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.

10. (Currently Amended) A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising: at least one knife having a predetermined handle and blade size, shape, and blade edge angle; a base portion having an elongate guide rail having a top surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of the knife being

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sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail and a handle support for engaging a handle of the knife ; and a sharpening implement which contacts and is guided on the guide rail for movement relative to the blade and which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.

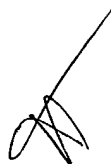
3. Any inquiry concerning the content of this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Rachuba whose telephone number is (703) 308-1361. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Any inquiries concerning other than the content of this and previous communications, such as missing references or filed papers not acknowledged, should be directed to the Customer Service Representative, Tech Center 3700, (703) 306-5648.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail, can be reached on (703) 308-2687.

In lieu of mailing, it is encouraged that all formal responses be faxed to 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

M. RACHUBA
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
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mtr
May 4, 2004